The Mustard Seed

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Mustard Seed News Notes

October 1, 2015

Feast of Saint Therese of Lisieux

Dear friends,

Peace to you. Were you also heartened by Pope Francis when in addressing Congres

s he raised up our foundress, Dorothy Day? He saw her as an exemplar for all Americans in the cause of securing social justice and human rights. It seems Dorothy's day has come for the American church. Her canonization seems more likely and less remote every day. Thanks be to God for her and our part in what the Spirit occasioned in her and dear Peter Maurin. I suppose the challenge for us here and now in Piedmont is to really live up to the estimation Pope Francis has made of the Catholic Worker movement. How can we work together to better advance the causes of economic and social justice? Let us pray and work. May we have the grace to be both more charitable and more just in our relations with each other. Deo Gratias.

Below are some news items that may be of interest to our colleagues in the work and also to our supporters.

- **Speaking engagements** have taken us to The Vincent de Paul Society at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and to a Men's Group connected to the area Cursillo Retreat Movement. We were the grateful recipients of the generosity of these communities of faith. We have been invited to speak to the youth at Saint Columba's Parish in Paxton and to a breakfast meeting in West Boylston thanks to our friends at Saint Francis Episcopal Church in Holden who provide a monthly meal at the Mustard Seed. If you would like to arrange for a speaker from the Mustard Seed, please call Mike at (508) 753-8974.
- Our **picnic tables** were painted and old linoleum taken up off the basement floor thanks to friends at Bay State Bank (a local bank!) who came to us via the United Way's Day of Caring. It was a great day of shared labor and we are most grateful. Thanks to Larry Marinelli who sought out and received a donation of 5 gallons of paint for those tables. They look great and may better weather the winter for their being attended to.
- Our **food pantry** for families continues to provide supplemental foodstuffs for up to 20 families weekly. We gladly welcome donations of canned and dry goods as well as cereals that can be supplied to these needy families. Donations can be brought to the house on Wednesday mornings for the pantry. Many thanks for any help with the pantry.
- We have received more requests for **blankets and sleeping bags** now that the weather is expected to change. We do not usually encourage donations of clothing to the house but **sweatshirts and winter coats, hats and gloves** have been requested and we would be happy to distribute such clothing.
- **Clarification of Thought**: We hosted our first clarification of thought meeting on the theme of hospitality and 17 people attended. It was a nice evening pondering Peter Maurin's and Dorothy Day's vision and thoughts on the subject as well as responses of our own in seeking to provide a place of welcome, refuge and peace at the Mustard Seed. A representative of Greendale People's Church and students

from WPI came (the students included old friends in the "Service Before Self" Group who thought to bring with them members of the WPI Newman Club).

- **Our prayer life** is given a boost each Friday evening at 7:15 PM where we gather in the chapel upstairs or in the dining room to pray. We have had Mass thanks to Frs. Foley and O'Connell from Saint Anne's and Fr. John Madden of Saint John's. These generous priests were friends with our beloved Fr. Bernard Gilgun who was our chaplain until his passing and they honor God, Bernie and us all in their celebrating the Eucharist with us here. Our next Mass is scheduled for October 9th with Fr. John Madden. Lay leaders have also led prayer on Friday evenings through reading and reflection on the Scriptures, praying the rosary and through general intercessory and thanksgiving prayer. Please join us as the Spirit moves.
- We have been approached by a group who may help with much needed **repairs** to our porches and doors. Please keep that project in your prayers.
- We welcome **Saint John's Church** (Temple Street) to our serving family. They are providing the meal the first Monday of every month. Thanks so for the likes of them!
- Volunteers are welcome to be a prayerful and quiet presence during the day as to receive donations and help keep the house clean and well readied for opening in mid-afternoon. If interested, please call Richard Kozlowski at the Seed number (508) 754-7098 or call Mike Boover at his number above. Thanks.
- Some of our members recently met with the leadership of Saint John's and All Saints Episcopal Church to see if we can be of mutual assistance.
- **Needs List:** Prayers, funds to pay bills and complete renovation projects, paper goods, napkins, coffee cups, sugar, non-sugar sweetener, coffee, milk, dish detergent, toilet paper, hygiene products, Pine Sol for floor washing and almost anything imaginable for keeping a household clean and going! Many, many thanks for you!
- **Donations** may be made out via check to the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker and sent to PO Box 2592, Worcester, MA 01613. Thanks.
- Please note that we have a **Facebook page**- Mustard Seed Catholic Worker- under the banner of community. Please like us if you like social media and us! Peace and good to all.

For now,

The Mustard Seed Catholic Worker Community